cut in non-salary component of non-plan expenditure. In the same set of instructions, an advisory was issued to make efforts to generate additional resources by gradual revision of tuition fees, levy of user fees, withdrawal of hostel subsidies and other measures.

Model schools for educationally backward districts of Rajasthan

1762. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has identified educationally backward districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government proposes to develop educationally backward districts by setting up model schools, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the allocation made to Rajasthan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Central Government has decided to set up 6000 Model Schools at the block level at the rate of one school per block as benchmarks of excellence. It has been decided to set up 2500 of these schools through State Governments in educationally backward blocks. Rajasthan has 186 educationally backward blocks. Sanctioning of schools is based on viability of proposals received from State Governments.

Unabated growth in number of private institutes

1763. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unabated growth in the number of private institutes of higher education without any quality check has forced some academics from Harvard University to scrutinise this sector;

(b) if so, their findings in this regard; and

(c) the follow up action which has been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) Matters related to growth and quality of privately funded institutions of higher education are addressed by the Central and State Governments, if necessary, in consultation with stake

holders. The universities and academe are free to take up various studies and the Government has no control over the same.

In so far as quality of higher education is concerned, various steps have been initiated. Processes for review of "deemed to be universities" are under way. A legislative proposal for mandatory accreditation of higher education institutions is under consideration of the Government. Another legislative proposal for the prohibition of unfair practices in technical educational institutions, medical educational institutions and universities is also under consideration.

Provision of modern education in Sanskrit schools

†1764. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated by Government to give advantage of modern education to Sanskrit schools being run in traditional way in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan;

(c) the total number of schools providing Sanskrit education in the country at present where degrees like Shastri and Acharya are given;

(d) whether there is an arrangement to provide any economic assistance to these Sanskrit institutes at present; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (RSkS), a Deemed University, implements a Scheme for the Development of Sanskrit Education which also provides for financial assistance for teachers for modern subjects in Traditional Sanskrit Pathasalas/Mahavidyalayas. Under this Scheme, financial assistance for appointment of a maximum of three teachers in modern subjects, for purchase of computer and honorarium for a part time computer teacher can be provided to the Traditional Sanskrit Pathasalas/Mahavidyalayas. The registered/affiliated Pathasalas/Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas can send their proposals under this Scheme to the RSkS through the concerned State Governments.

(c) 11 Sanskrit Universities in the country are awarding different degrees like Shastri, Acharya or their equivalent. In addition, there are general Universities in India, which also award Post Graduate degrees in Sanskrit.

(d) and (e) 89 Institutions located in different States have been provided with financial assistance for 159 teachers of modern subjects amounting to Rs.1.15 crore for the year 2008-2009 by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan. University Grants Commission has released grants amounting to Rs.39.39 crores to various Sanskrit Universities in 2008-2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.